

RI DEM OFFICE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE Annual Report for 2000

For the calendar year 2000 the Emergency Response program responded to 796 complaints. The amount of material removed or handled is as follows:

Petroleum And Petroleum Contaminated Soils

The Office was involved with the removal and/or recovery of:

- 523,938 gallons of petroleum from the environment or that posed an immediate threat to the environment or the public.
- 2,759 cubic yards / 2691 tons of petroleum contaminated soil from the environment.

Hazardous Chemicals And Soil Contaminated By Hazardous Chemicals

The Office was involved with the removal and/or recovery of:

- 52,138 gallons of hazardous chemicals from the environment or that posed an immediate threat to the environment or the public.
- 187 cubic yards of chemically contaminated soil that posed an immediate threat to the environment.
- 1,356 pounds of hazardous waste that posed an immediate threat to the environment.

Cylinders

- The Office was involved with the removal of 50 cylinders of propane and other types of compressed elements. Some of the material was recycled by vendors, used for its intended purpose or burned. These items were removed from locations so they would no longer pose an immediate threat to the public or the environment.

Asbestos

- The Office was involved with the discovery, improper storage and proper disposal of 41 tons of asbestos. The material was removed from locations to eliminate an immediate threat to the public.

Mercury

- The Office was involved with the removal and/or recovery of 30 pounds of Mercury from the environment or from people who no longer had a use for the material. This material will go to a recycler in New York for reuse.

Septage

- The Office was involved with the treatment or removal of 7,200 gallons of sewage that released into the environment.

Biohazards

- The Office was involved with the incineration or proper disposal of biohazards such as human blood and fermented fish guts.

Cost Recovery

- The Office of Compliance and Inspection's, Emergency Response Section recovered a total amount of \$107,507.88 for cleanup costs from responsible parties and the National Pollution Fund Center.

Major Spills And Cleanups

- A portion of the **Mobile Pipeline** was inadvertently excavated by a backhoe in a new development in Cumberland releasing 7,000 gallons of gasoline on March 11th. More than 20,000 gallons of gasoline and water were removed and disposed of properly. Also, approximately 1,500 tons of gasoline contaminated soil were removed and disposed of properly.
- The **Riverside Mills** cleanup, that began on May 18th in Providence, involved the removal of 125,000 gallons of petroleum and 1120 tons of oil contaminated soil. The Office made arrangements to obtain funding, hire a contractor and cleanup the site. The cost of the cleanup was \$155,424.41. This location will constitute a portion of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway.
- **Penn 460 oil spill**, which occurred on July 5th, released over 14,000 gallons of #6 oil along the Newport shoreline. Various techniques were instituted to recover approximately 60% of the spilled oil. An international newsletter indicated that it was "a textbook example of how to handle an oil spill".
- **C. White & Sons tanker truck**, carrying 11,7000 gallons of jet A fuel, overturned on Interstate 95 and Route 37 on July 20th in Cranston. The spilled fuel ignited incinerating everything in the immediate area. Approximately 1,025 gallons of a mixture of fuel and water were recovered and about 400 cubic yards of fuel contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of properly.
- Personnel from this Office assisted the EPA cleanup of **Chase Paint in Warwick** during August. EPA spent \$191,395 to remove and properly dispose of 194,100 pounds of waste paint.
- Personnel from this Office responded to **Northern Environmental, Inc** concerning a chemical reaction in their 5,600-gallon tank containing hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid on September 19th. When the company inadvertently added nitric acid to the tank, fumes of poisonous nitrous oxide were produced. The company added four hundred pounds of sodium meta bisulfate to halt the reaction.
- **Star Gas** on Snake Hill Road in Glocester had a propane release from a 1,000-gallon tank on October 2nd. The company off loaded the liquid into a bulk carrier. Once the liquid was removed the gas phase in the tank was flared off and the valve was repaired.